

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4102

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: NDP LEADERSHIP RACE

REF: A SEOUL 3106 B, SEOUL 3914

BEGIN SUMMARY: NDP ANNOUNCES DATE FOR CONVENTION.
DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE MEETS ON CHONG HAE-YONG'S
REMARK. KO HUNG-MUN AND KIM YONG SAM FAIL TO REACH
AGREEMENT AS CONTENDERS CONTINUE TO SEEK SUPPORT
FROM DELEGATES. END SUMMARY.

1. NDP SECRETARY GENERAL SIN TO-HWAN ANNOUNCED JUNE 20
THAT PARTY WOULD HOLD SPECIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION TO
ELECT NEW LEADER AUG 22-23. SIN WAS SPEAKING FOR
ACTING PARTY HEAD KIM UI-TAEK WHO HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED
IN MAY BY POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO SET DATE FOR
CONVENTION (REF A.).

2. KIM UI-TAEK AND SIN HAVE TOLD EMBOFF THAT PARTY
LEADERS ARE COMMITTED TO CONVENTION IN AUGUST, AND
DISCOUNT RECENT PRESS SPECULATION THAT CONVENTION
MIGHT BE POSTPONED. OTHER NDP ASSEMBLYMEN ALSO HAVE
INDICATED THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THE PARTY TO
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REVERSE ITSELF AND CALL OFF OR DELAY THE CONVENTION.

EARLIER, HOWEVER, SHIN HIMSELF HAD SAID THAT IF
FACTIONAL LEADERS SEE NO CLEAR PROSPECT FOR WINNING
THEY MIGHT POSTPONE CONVENTION (REF A.).

3. NDP DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE MET JUNE 20 TO CONSIDER
CHARGES AGAINST CHONG HAE-YONG WHO ACCUSED SOME NDP
ASSEMBLYMEN OF COLLABORATION WITH GOVERNMENT (REF B.).
COMMITTEE HOPES TO RESOLVE CONTROVERSY QUICKLY AND
FORMED SUB-COMMITTEE WHICH NOW IN SESSION. PRESS
QUOTES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AS SAYING REMARKS AND
CONTROVERSY HAVE HARMED PARTY, AND ALL PARTY LEADERS
CONTINUE TO DOWNPLAY EVENT. KIM UI-TAEK HAS TOLD US
THAT HE DOES NOT CONSIDER
CHONG INCIDENT TOO SERIOUS AND THAT IT MUST BE
PROMPTLY RESOLVED. ASSEMBLYMAN SUPPORTER OF CHONG,
OM YONG-TAL, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT CHONG DID ACCUSE
ASSEMBLYMEN (ABOUT 10-15) OF AGREEING WITH ROK-CIA
NOT TO OPPOSE THIRD TERM FOR PRESIDENT PARK IN
RETURN FOR COVERT ROKG SUPPORT IN ELECTION. OM SAID
CHARGES ARE UNDOUBTEDLY TRUE. HE FEELS, THAT
DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE WILL LET CHONG OFF WITH
WARNING SINCE STRONGER MEASURES COULD SPLIT PARTY.

4. KIM YONG-SAM AND KO HUNG-MUN MET JUNE 22,
REPORTEDLY TO PLAN JOINT CAMPAIGN. NO AGREEMENT WAS
REACHED AS TO WHICH ONE WOULD DROP OUT OF LEADERSHIP
RACE HOWEVER.

5. IN MEANTIME, CONTENDERS AND THEIR ASSEMBLY FOLLOWERS
COINTINUE TO TRAVEL EXTENSIVELY IN PROVINCES LINING UP
DELEGATES. PRESS REPORTS THAT LIBERAL AMOUNTS OF
MONEY BEING EXPENDED TO BUY DELEGATES. OM YONG-TAL
REPORTS THAT CHONG HAE-YONG AND KO HUNG-MUN AS WEALTHIER
OF CONTENDERS ADMIT THAT NO FACTION CAN COUNT ON
MAJORITY BEFORE CONVENTION.
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